

Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Currently Amended) A microcellular polyurethane foam obtained by reacting: ~~a polyisocyanate,~~
 - (i) an isocyanate-terminated prepolymer obtained by reacting a polyisocyanate with a polyester formed from a dimer fatty acid and/or dimer fatty diol;
 - (ii) a polyester formed from a dimer fatty acid and/or dimer fatty ~~diol,~~ diol; and
 - (iii) a chain ~~extender~~ extender;wherein said foam retains at least 40% of its initial tensile strength after being subjected to hydrolysis for 2 weeks.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) A foam according to claim 1 wherein the each said polyester is additionally formed from a non-dimer dicarboxylic acid, ~~and preferably the ratio of dimer fatty acids to non-dimer acids is in the range from 30 to 70:30 to 70% by weight of the total dicarboxylic acids.~~
4. (Previously Presented) A foam according to claim 3 wherein the non-dimer dicarboxylic acid comprises adipic acid.
5. (Previously Presented) A foam according to claim 1 wherein the chain extender is a diol having an aliphatic linear carbon chain comprising in the range from 1 to 10, more preferably 3 to 5 carbon atoms.
6. (Currently Amended) A foam according to claim 1 wherein the foam retains at least 60%, ~~preferably at least 80%,~~ of its initial tensile strength and/or initial elongation at break properties, after being subjected to hydrolysis for 2 weeks.

7. (Currently Amended) A foam according to claim 1 wherein the foam retains at least 20%, ~~preferably at least 30%~~, of its initial tensile strength and/or retains at least 30%, ~~preferably at least 50%~~ of its initial elongation at break properties, after being subjected to hydrolysis for 4 weeks.
8. (Previously Presented) A foam according to claim 1 wherein the foam has a density in the range from 0.25 to 0.7 gcm⁻³, and/or a hardness in the range from 20 to 60 Shore A, and/or a tensile strength in the range from 35 to 80 kgcm⁻², and/or an elongation at break of greater than 250%, and/or a tear strength in the range from 2 to 8 kNm⁻¹, and/or an impact resilience in the range from 10 to 35%.
9. (Original) An isocyanate-terminated prepolymer which is the reaction product of a polyisocyanate and a polyester which is the reaction product of dimer fatty acid, adipic acid and diethylene glycol.
10. (Currently Amended) A shoe sole comprising a microcellular polyurethane foam obtained by ~~reacting~~ reacting: ~~a polyisocyanate,~~
(i) an isocyanate-terminated prepolymer obtained by reacting a polyisocyanate with a polyester formed from a dimer fatty acid and/or dimer fatty diol;
(ii) a polyester formed from a dimer fatty acid and/or dimer fatty diol, diol;
and
(iii) a chain extender extender;
wherein said foam retains at least 40% of its initial tensile strength after being subjected to hydrolysis for 2 weeks.
11. (Currently Amended) A process for forming a microcellular polyurethane foam wherein said foam retains at least 40% of its initial tensile strength after being subjected to hydrolysis for 2 weeks comprising reacting
(iv) an isocyanate-terminated prepolymer obtained by reacting a polyisocyanate with a polyester formed from a dimer fatty acid and/or dimer fatty diol; a polyisocyanate,

- (v) a polyester formed from a dimer fatty acid and/or dimer fatty ~~diol~~, diol;
and
- (vi) a chain extender.

12. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 11 wherein ~~the~~ each said polyester is additionally formed from a non-dimer dicarboxylic acid, ~~and preferably the ratio of dimer fatty acids to non-dimer acids is in the range from 30 to 70:30 to 70% by weight of the total dicarboxylic acids.~~

13. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 12 wherein the non-dimer dicarboxylic acid comprises adipic acid.

14. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 11 wherein the chain extender is a diol having an aliphatic linear carbon chain comprising in the range from 1 to 10, more preferably 3 to 5 carbon atoms.

15. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 11 wherein the foam retains at least 60%, preferably at least 80%, of its initial tensile strength and/or initial elongation at break properties, after being subjected to hydrolysis for 2 weeks.

16. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 11 wherein the foam retains at least 20%, preferably at least 30%, of its initial tensile strength and/or retains at least 30%, preferably at least 50% of its initial elongation at break properties, after being subjected to hydrolysis for 4 weeks.

17. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 11 wherein the foam has a density in the range from 0.25 to 0.7 gcm⁻³, and/or a hardness in the range from 20 to 60 Shore A, and/or a tensile strength in the range from 35 to 80 kgcm⁻², and/or an elongation at break of greater than 250%, and/or a tear strength in the range from 2 to 8 kNm⁻¹, and/or an impact resilience in the range from 10 to 35%.

18. (New) A foam according to claim 1 wherein said foam retains at least 60% of its initial tensile strength after being subjected to hydrolysis for 2 weeks.

19. (New) A foam according to claim 1 wherein said foam retains at least 80% of its initial tensile strength after being subjected to hydrolysis for 2 weeks.

20. (New) A foam according to claim 3 wherein the weight ratio of dimer fatty acids to non-dimer acids is in the range from 30 to 70:30 to 70 of the total dicarboxylic acids.

21. (New) A foam according to claim 6 wherein the foam retains at least 80% of its initial tensile strength and/or initial elongation at break properties, after being subjected to hydrolysis for 2 weeks.

22. (New) A process according to claim 12 wherein the weight ratio of dimer fatty acids to non-dimer acids is in the range from 30 to 70:30 to 70 of the total dicarboxylic acids.

23. (New) A microcellular polyurethane foam obtained by reacting:

- (i) an isocyanate-terminated prepolymer obtained by reacting a polyisocyanate with a polyester formed from a dimer fatty acid and/or dimer fatty diol;
- (ii) a polyester formed from a dimer fatty acid and/or dimer fatty diol; and
- (iii) a chain extender;

wherein said dimer fatty acids and/or dimer fatty diols in each said polyester have a trimer content between 5 and 15 weight percent.

24. (New) A foam according to claim 23 wherein said dimer fatty acids and/or dimer fatty diols in each said polyester have a trimer content between 7 and 13 weight percent.

25. (New) A foam according to claim 23 wherein said foam retains at least 40% of its initial tensile strength after being subjected to hydrolysis for 2 weeks.

26. (New) A foam according to claim 23 wherein said foam retains at least 60% of

its initial tensile strength after being subjected to hydrolysis for 2 weeks.

27. (New) A foam according to claim 23 wherein said foam retains at least 80% of its initial tensile strength after being subjected to hydrolysis for 2 weeks.

28. (New) A microcellular polyurethane foam obtained by reacting:

- (i) an isocyanate-terminated prepolymer obtained by reacting a polyisocyanate with a polyester formed from a dimer fatty acid and/or dimer fatty diol;
- (ii) a polyester formed from a dimer fatty acid and/or dimer fatty diol; and
- (iii) a chain extender comprising a compound having at least 2 active hydrogen groups;

wherein said dimer fatty acids and/or dimer fatty diols in each said polyester have a trimer content between 5 and 15 weight percent.

29. (New) A foam according to claim 28 wherein said dimer fatty acids and/or dimer fatty diols in each said polyester have a trimer content between 7 and 13 weight percent.

30. (New) A foam according to claim 28 wherein said polyesters are obtained by reacting dimer fatty acid with diethylene glycol.

31. (New) A foam according to claim 28 wherein said polyesters are obtained by reacting essentially linear dicarboxylic acids having a carbon chain in the range 2 to 20, dimer fatty acid and diethylene glycol.

32. (New) A foam according to claim 28 wherein said polyesters are obtained by reacting essentially adipic acid, dimer fatty acid and diethylene glycol.

33. (New) A microcellular polyurethane foam obtained by reacting:

- (i) an isocyanate-terminated prepolymer obtained by reacting a

polyisocyanate with a polyester formed by reacting essentially adipic acid, dimer fatty acid and diethylene glycol;

(ii) a polyester formed by reacting essentially adipic acid, dimer fatty acid and diethylene glycol; and

(iii) a chain extender comprising a compound having at least 2 active hydrogen groups;

wherein said dimer fatty acids in each said polyester have a trimer content between 7 and 13 weight percent.

34. (New) A foam according to claim 1 wherein the foam retains at least 30% of its initial tensile strength and/or retains at least 50% of its initial elongation at break properties, after being subjected to hydrolysis for 4 weeks.